of staff productivity etc. for improving the overall efficiencies. The important policy initiatives taken to reduce the NPA level and those followed by individual RRBs include compromise settlement, one time settlement scheme, recovery drives, post disbursal follow up by field level staff and initiation of legal action against defaulters etc.

Chairman of Charminar Co-operative Bank

80. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government for removal of Chairman of scam hit Charminar Co-operative Bank subsequently merging it with some other bank; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) After Chairman of Charminar Co-Operative Bank committed suicide, request was made by Andhra Pradesh Government as well as Reserve Bank of India for appointment of Administrator in the Bank. The Board of Directors was superceded on 2nd March, 2002 and an Administrator was appointed.

Hawala transaction in Mumbai-based banks

81. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate has detected that huge hawala sum of Rs. 336 crores was deposited in four Mumbai-based banks and was transferred within 60 days to accounts for South India based banks;

(b) if so, whether this was done with the connivance of bank employees;

(c) if so, the persons arrested in this regard; and

(d) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, During the year 2000, the Directorate of Enforcement had investigated a case in which amounts totalling Rs. 336 crore approximately were found to have been

deposited during November, 1999 to December, 2000 in the accounts of some individuals at the Mumbai branches of some banks. The said amounts were found to have been gradually transferred over the period of November, 1999 to December, 2000 to certain accounts maintained with the corresponding branches of the said banks in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The investigation made by the Directorate of Enforcement did not reveal any violation of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act/ Foreign Exchange Management Act on the part of the banks/ their officials concerned. However, keeping in view the large amounts involved in these transactions, references were made by the Enforcement Directorate to various investigating agencies, including the Central Bureau of investigation for taking necessary action in the matter in accordance with the respective laws.

(c) and (d) No arrests were made by the Enforcement Directorate in this regard.

Devaluation of Rupee

82. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : WILL THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the value of rupee against the US dollar had fallen to all time low in May, 2002.

(b) If so, what was the lowest value of rupee in that month;

(c) what was the value of rupee in May, 2001; and

(d) What action Government have taken to stabilise the value of rupee *vis-a-vis* US dollar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The exchange rate of the rupee against the US dollar reached all time low of Rs. 49.06 as on the 16th May, 2002 and was in the range between Rs. 48.96 to Rs. 49.06 per US dollar in May, 2002

(c) The exchange rate of the rupee was in the range between Rs. 46.82 to Rs. 47.01 per US dollar in May, 2001.

(d) The movement in exchange rate of the rupee are largely determined by demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market. The developments in the